



*The Office of the Governor*

**THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF IDAHO  
BOISE

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2006-24**

**DESIGNATING THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AS THE STATE AGENCY (CLEARINGHOUSE) TO RECEIVE NOTICES OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY MATTERS UNDER THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969; AND DESIGNATING THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AS THE AGENCY TO REPRESENT THE STATE ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO RAILROADS BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

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*WHEREAS, the issues of railroad abandonments, acquisitions, consolidations, and sales are significant to the State of Idaho and particularly its more sparsely populated rural areas; and*

*WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Idaho to promote the development and viability of railroad transportation within the State; and*

*WHEREAS, the State of Idaho has a significant interest in maintaining and promoting rail access to Idaho communities for vital goods, services, and markets; and*

*WHEREAS, the Surface Transportation Board (STB), under: (1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §4332; (2) 49 U.S.C. §10502; (3) 49 U.S.C. §§ 10903-06; and (4) 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105, 1121, 1150, 1152, and 1180, requires railroads operating within the State of Idaho to serve notice of certain required actions upon a designated State agency; and*

*WHEREAS, Idaho Code title 62, section 424 vests the Idaho Public Utilities Commission with the authority to make findings and represent the State of Idaho before the STB.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES E. RISCH, Governor of the State of Idaho, by the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of this State do hereby order as follows:*

*To designate the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to represent the State on matters pertaining to railroads before the Surface Transportation Board and to receive notices of environmental and energy matters from railroads operating within the State of Idaho, as provided under the applicable federal statutes and regulations.*

*I further direct all State agencies to notify the Public Utilities Commission of information received by them of potential railroad abandonments and to cooperate with the Public Utilities Commission on all matters pertaining to railroads. The Public Utilities Commission is designated as the lead agency for railroad matters and shall approve all State agency submissions to the STB prior to transmittal.*



*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and six, and of the independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-first and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred seventeenth.*

*[Handwritten signature of James E. Risch]*

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JAMES E. RISCH  
GOVERNOR

*[Handwritten signature of Ben Ysursa]*

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BEN YSURSA  
SECRETARY OF STATE